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# Book Review. Telecom Regulation Monitor (S. Gieman and E. Herman, Eds.)

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does run successfully on that platform. In addition to the Premise Research software, a 3.5-inch diskette is required to unlock the course handbook files. The publisher's guidelines for using the key diskette to unlock the PLI course handbook are clear and well written. A Premise user manual and a QuickScan chart for Windows use are included.

Premise behaved as expected (even though my demonstration disk failed to give the full flavor of the material available). For experienced Westlaw researchers, boolean search strategies and some field-search capabilities add immeasurably to the handbooks' value. The next generation of Premise (version 3.0) will offer the same natural language search capabilities currently available to Westlaw users.

Prices vary from \$555 to \$1,495 for the individual series; and the purchase price provides a license for one to five users. Additional license fees are assessed for each series for users beyond the first five. Price discounts are available for current subscribers to hardcopy course handbook series, for current PLI members, and for non-profit libraries.

The *CD-ROM Libraries* almost certainly will not oust the hardcopy publication of PLI course handbooks. If for no other reason than the continued need for printed materials for use in the various PLI seminars, the book formats will likely remain around for many years.

Many of the same purchasers of PLI's course handbooks in hardcopy will probably buy the CD-ROM series and appreciate their ease of use, such as the indexing capabilities. Those who appreciate the potential reference value of the course handbooks will ultimately purchase these *CD-ROM Libraries* from Practising Law Institute . . . PLI.

—Jerry E. Stephens,

U.S. Court of Appeals Library, Oklahoma City

## **INTERNATIONAL & FOREIGN LAW**

### **Comparative Law: Law and the Legal Process in**

**Japan.** Kenneth Lloyd Port. 1996. Carolina Academic Press. Hardcover. 860p. ISBN: 0-89089-860-X. \$75.

This text is a wonderful and insightful compilation of scholarly works on the Japanese legal system. The author carefully selected articles from both Japanese and non-Japanese writers to give readers a complete look at specific subject areas. Caselaw is also included to lend understanding of why and how the Japanese legal system works in the way it does.

The book is arranged for quick and easy reference to a wide variety of legal topics. The introduction is rich in history and provides an excellent starting point for those interested in getting some advice on how to proceed with a study comparing the Japanese legal system with the United States system. Not only legal, but sociological, economical, and jurisprudential is-

ssues are also pointed out to orient readers with the material that follows in the text.

The overview of the Japanese legal system set forth in chapter 2 picks up crucial parts of Japanese law—such as the Japanese constitution and the organization of the judiciary system—and explains them in lay terms. Litigation is dealt with in chapter 3; however, its placement so early in the text is puzzling. Chapter 3 answers questions about the state of litigation in Japan, both between the Japanese themselves and others. Antitrust, settlements, and the notion of loyalty are all touched upon here. The section on constitutional law is perhaps the most informed analysis offered in the book. The parliamentary system is explained, and caselaw analysis coupled with commentary on the governing process in Japan is included.

Discussion about Japanese lawyers and the legal profession in chapter 4 is by far the most fascinating. It is a look into a rather unknown society, for Americans and Japanese alike. The author does a commendable job of comparing the roles of attorneys in Japan and in the United States. There is a frank look at foreign lawyers in Japan and what they face in trying to practice law in Japan.

Chapters 6 and 7 cover corporate law and antitrust issues. Corporate structure in Japan is different and so are its closed corporations. These sections are informative and current with regards to the trade problems between Japan and the United States.

Those involved in alternate dispute resolution will benefit from the discussion in chapter 8. Japan has much experience in this area, and the articles in this chapter offer a concise survey.

The criminal justice system, human rights, rights for women, the family registration system, and the infamous Buraku Liberation League are written about with an international perspective. Furthermore, other areas of law such as contract law, administrative law, banking law, intellectual property, and labor relations are discussed in the remaining chapters.

The text is not only an excellent source for focused researchers. It could also serve as course material for lawyers studying the Japanese legal system.

—Dana Derham-Aoyama, Managing Editor,

*Temple International and Comparative Law Journal*,

Temple University School of Law, Philadelphia

& Matthew D. Roazen, General Counsel,

Rostok USA Corporation, Bryn Mawr, PA

## **MEDIA LAW**

**Telecom Regulation Monitor.** Steve Gieman & Edie Herman, eds. 1996. Warren Publishing, Inc. Newsletter, weekly. 14p. \$724.

On February 8, 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 56, PL 104-104). A comprehensive revision of the

### Telecommunications Listservs

BELL (listserver@bell.com)—regular updates on telecommunications reform legislation.

ROUNDTABLE (listproc@cni.org)—Telecommunications Policy Roundtable Forum.

TELECOMREG (listserver@relay.adp.wisc.edu)—Telecommunications Regulations list.

VTW-ANNOUNCE (request@vtw.org)—Voters Telecom Watch announcements list.

### Telecom Web Sites

Voters Telecommunications Watch—[http://www.vtw.org/Telecom A.M.](http://www.vtw.org/Telecom_A.M.)—<http://capitol.cappubs.com/tpg/pages/telam.htm>

Blumenfeld & Cohen Technology Law—[http://www.technologylaw.com/techlaw/telecom\\_bill.html](http://www.technologylaw.com/techlaw/telecom_bill.html)

UCLA Online Institute for Cyberspace Law and Policy—<http://www.gse.ucla.edu/iclp/hp.html>

Citizens Internet Empowerment Coalition—<http://www.cdt.org/ciec/>

Communications Act of 1934, this act addresses telephone services, equipment manufacturing, cable television, radio and television broadcasting, as well as the Internet and online computer services.

The Internet portion, known as the Communications Decency Act, has drawn significant criticism from the online community, and a lawsuit challenging its constitutionality is currently pending in Philadelphia. The implementation and enforcement of the Telecommunications Act is of great interest to those in the communications industry, as well as to the public in general. To keep industry members informed of the latest developments, Warren Publishing released *Telecom Regulation Monitor* just days after the bill became law. This 14-page newsletter focuses solely on the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Warren publishes a number of weekly newsletters, including *Communications Daily*, *Television & Cable Action Update*, and *Consumer Multimedia Report*. The company also produces two directories: *Television & Cable Factbook* and *Cable & TV Station Coverage Atlas*. In addition, a division of Warren specializes in market research and data sales research for cable and television.

Federal and state telecommunications activities are discussed in each issue of *Telecom Regulation Monitor*. The publisher describes it as "the authoritative weekly news service covering the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996," yet the news summaries in each issue lack citations to sources, and authors are not identified. The lack of citations makes it difficult for lawyers and researchers to locate more information on a particular pending case or regulation. For example, the case on the Internet portion of the act is never identified by name or docket number.

The layout is not fancy or slick. There are no news columns or graphics. The first seven words in each paragraph of an article are underlined, which may distract readers since the underlining makes one article appear to consist of many brief summaries. At \$724, this newsletter can only be recommended for specialized libraries in the telecommunications industry or for libraries without Internet access.

The Internet offers a wealth of information on the Telecommunications Act (see sidebar). There are a number of listservs that provide current awareness information and a forum for discussing the act with other telecom professionals. In addition, there are World Wide Web sites with telecom news bulletins. Very detailed information concerning the Communications Decency Act can also be found on the Web.

—Juliet M. Casper, Electronic Services  
Reference Librarian, Indiana University  
School of Law Library, Bloomington, IN

### PRACTICE & PROCEDURE

#### The Complete Guide to Contract Lawyering:

#### What Every Lawyer & Law Firm Needs to Know

About Temporary Legal Services. Deborah Arron & Deborah Guyol. 1995. Niche Press. Softcover. 317p. ISBN: 0-940675-45-5. \$42.95.

Every law office and all types of law libraries should own a copy of *The Complete Guide to Contract Lawyering*. For \$42.95, it is a steal. It is true to its title in that it is a *complete* guide to all the questions that any practitioner or student may have about the growing phenomenon of contract lawyering.

The authors, both former law firm practitioners, bring their considerable experience and wisdom to the many facets of contract lawyering. They don't miss an issue. Deborah Arron is the author of *What Can You Do with a Law Degree?* and *Running from the Law: Why Good Lawyers are Getting Out of the Legal Profession*, both published by Niche Press. Deborah Guyol coordinates the Oregon Women Lawyers Contract Lawyer Referral Service and is now a contract lawyer herself.

The book's introduction presents a look at contract lawyering in context. The authors sketch a short social history of the practice of law and employment in general over the last century, all the while debunking myths about the use of temporary legal services. Arron and Guyol present a realistic picture of the pros and cons of contract lawyering. Besides the very valuable information contained about every imaginable aspect of temporary lawyering, there are a number of self-assessment exercises to decide whether contract lawyering is a viable option.

*The Complete Guide to Contract Lawyering* explores the myriad ethical, malpractice, and insurance

*continued on next page*